

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Alternatively, a start feature may be provided by the sample. Referring now to ~~Fig 4,~~ Fig. 3, the sample 30 is solid i.e. does not have a hollow centre. In this case, the start feature 32 is provided by the surface of the sample which is distal to the sample holder 38 or fixture (not shown). It is convenient that the sample is located approximately centrally on the rotational axis of the sample holder. The probe tip is simply located on the rotational axis at a set height above the sample holder. The probe tip and/or sample holder are moved towards each other until the tip contacts the sample. This contact causes a deflection of the probe tip on the rotational axis of the sample holder which designates the first feature thus, the start feature is recognised and the probe is ready to start a scan.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second feature, which denotes the end of a scan may be provided by the sample holder (e.g., by side surface 38A of the sample holder 38), fixture or sample. When the second feature is recognised, by reaching certain co-ordinates or the probe tip describing a certain characteristic shape, the probe moves rapidly to a standby location to await further instructions.